



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

### TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE Committee on Public Safety and Security February 28, 2013

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#### **Raised Bill No. 6453- AN ACT CONCERNING FOAMED-IN-PLACE INSULATING MATERIAL**

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The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) offers the following information regarding Raised Bill No. 6453, which seeks to change the definition of urea formaldehyde foamed-in-place insulation (UFFI). Formaldehyde is a human carcinogen<sup>1</sup>. The original law banning the installation of UFFI was enacted in 1981 because UFFI continued to off-gas formaldehyde into the air of a large number of homes and buildings for many months after it was installed, making occupants ill.

The DPH believes that revising the definition of UFFI as proposed in Raised Bill No. 6453 could result in unintended consequences leading to cases of formaldehyde exposure and ill health. However, being sensitive to points raised previously by the Office of the State Building Inspector (SBI), we would be open to collaborating on a language revision that would protect public health and afford the SBI more flexibility in the type of foamed-in-place insulation products that could be allowed in buildings.

In order to protect the health of Connecticut residents, we believe that the following section of the original law, CGS 29-277 should be retained:

***(b) Urea-formaldehyde foamed-in-place insulation shall not be installed in any building or structure on or after June 1, 1981.***

Additionally, we believe following the italicized language change to the current bill will offer health protections while affording flexibility for allowable products used to insulate Connecticut buildings.

(4) Test results from a laboratory approved by the State Building Inspector certifying that the cured insulating material meets indoor air quality emissions ***standards of most current version of the California Specification 01350***<sup>2</sup>, in accordance with any of the following verification methods:

- A. Scientific Certification Systems Indoor Advantage™ + Formaldehyde Free Certification Requirements;***
- B. ASTM WK30960 - New Practice for Spraying, Sampling, and Packaging Spray Polyurethane Foam (SPF) Insulation Samples for Environmental Chamber Emissions Testing;***